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Minutes of Meeting August 1, 2023

Zoom

Members Present:

Barb Abeln
Katie Armstrong
Bob “Skippy” Blechinger
Melanie Boetel
Joe Carlson
Toni Feist
Bernie Grimme
Samantha Hynes
Jessie Kuechenmeister

Eric Kurtz
Julie Nelson
Keath Rick
Brenda Smith
Tina Two Crow Slow Bear
Cole Uecker
Sara Valle
Joey Younie

Others Attending:

Marlys Feist

Arlene Poncelet

INTRODUCTIONS

Sara Valle, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. The mission statement was read, and the meeting agreements were reviewed. All members were asked to introduce themselves and their role on the Council.

APPROVE AGENDA & MINUTES

Jessie Kuechenmeister made a motion, seconded by Bernie Grimme, to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Sara Valle asked for clarification on the salary increase and Arlene explained that the Council's policy is to follow the salary policy of the fiscal agent. Toni Feist made a motion, seconded by Brenda Smith, to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2023, meeting. Motion passed.

BUDGET UPDATE

Arlene Poncelet reviewed the Information Budget that she prepared. This showed available funds from FFY22 and 23 as \$10,430.53 (assuming proposals approved as explained). Arlene shared that news about the federal budget currently has the House budget showing a 29% cut for DD Councils while the Senate budget shows level funding. For this budget update, Arlene used a 9% cut for FFY24 that starts on October 1, 2023. Bernie Grimme made a motion, seconded by Skippy Blechinger, to approve the report as presented. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & RATIFY ACTIONS

Sara reviewed the Executive Committee's actions and recommendations as follows:

- a. SD Parent Connection, \$1,000 sponsorship approved for printing Behavior Guide
- b. USD Emergency Preparedness mini-grant, \$4,988, recommendation to not fund
- c. USD Center for Disabilities, grant for SD Conference on Developmental Disabilities, present to full Council
- d. Division of Developmental Disabilities, grant for Supporting Families Community of Practice, present to full Council
- e. USD Center for Disabilities, grant for Transition Summit, present to full Council
- f. Northern Hills Training Center, grant for documentary titled "The Hunt", not recommended for presenting to the Council
- g. SD Parent Connection, grant for Transition – Success, present to full Council

Sara shared other discussion from the meeting about Arlene's plan to retire in 12-18 months and participant questions from the Administration on Community Living related to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Skippy Blechinger made a motion, seconded by Jessie Kuechenmeister, to approve the report of the Executive Committee. Motion passed.

Bernie Grimme made a motion, seconded by Brenda Smith, to ratify the actions of the Executive Committee (items a-g above). Motion passed.

STATE PLAN UPDATES & BUDGET FOR FFY24

Arlene explained that State Plan Updates are due on August 15. The only updates she will submit are to the membership of the Council and a budget for FFY24. Arlene recommended keeping the same budget as FFY23. Jessie Kuechenmeister updated that her code should be B2 not B3. Keath Rick made a motion, seconded by Bernie Grimme, to approve the updates and budget as recommended. Motion passed.

GRANT APPLICATION – Supporting Families Community of Practice, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Carrie Geppert presented a review of the activities from the past year, and how the Division plans to use the funds requested to support greater engagement of families and self-advocates in the Community of Practice.

Council members discussed people falling through the cracks and not receiving services, what CSPs can provide, connecting more to Partners graduates and hearing from families that they want a place to connect and discuss what's working and not working with other families and service providers. Other discussion included being appreciative of the review of activities that had happened during the past year, only a few families and self-advocates have

been involved, are there plans for imbedding these strategies going forward (finding ways to cover stipends, etc.).

Bernie Grimme made a motion, seconded by Cole Uecker, to approve federal funding in the amount of \$44,212.50 for the Supporting Families Community of Practice grant. Motion passed 13-0 with Toni Feist, Brenda Smith and Joey Younie abstaining.

GRANT APPLICATION – South Dakota Developmental Disabilities Conference, USD Center for Disabilities

Eric Kurtz presented information to the Council about the conference. Discussion included the number of people with disabilities and family members attending last year; and concern that are we meeting the needs of families having a conference in the middle of the week, topics chosen, etc.

Bernie Grimme made a motion, seconded by Skippy Blechinger, to approve federal funding in the amount of \$40,423 for the SD Conference on Developmental Disabilities. Motion passed 13-0 with Toni Feist, Eric Kurtz and Joey Younie abstaining.

GRANT APPLICATION – SD Community Based Transition Partnership, USD Center for Disabilities

John Johnson presented to the Council the proposal for a hosting a meeting to create an action plan. Discussion included who would be involved, there was a transition planning meeting held last week and this looks very duplicative, and during years 1 and 2 there were activities that were not completed such as the professional competencies of transition staff and self-employment models.

Toni Feist made a motion, seconded by Skippy Blechinger, to fund the proposal. After further discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Bernie Grimme made a motion, seconded by Toni Feist, to not fund the proposal. Motion passed 14-1 with Eric Kurtz abstaining.

GRANT APPLICATION – Transition – Success, SD Parent Connection

Carla Miller and Lisa Sanderson presented the proposal to the Council. Discussion included the number of students and families to be trained as well as teachers each year, collaboration with the Transition Services Liaison Project and how broadly can they share this model using a hybrid model for train-the trainer activities.

Suggestions from the Council to share with SD Parent Connection included: consider how to gather outcomes for the students about what happened afterwards (were their expectations higher after the training and achieved) or do they do a pre- and post- survey; and have they incorporated some of the Charting the LifeCourse philosophy and tools into the curriculum (could they share the session outlines for the training).

Skippy Blechinger made a motion, seconded by Tina Two Crow Slow Bear, to approve federal funding of \$36,950 for this three-year project. Motion passed 15-0.

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS (RFPs)

Arlene reviewed the Requests for Proposals to: Disability Rights South Dakota for Leadership Development, USD Center for Disabilities for Public Information, and Mini grants for Education and Training. These RFPs are issued to accept proposals that will be presented to the full Council or Executive Committee for discussion and decisions on funding.

Brenda Smith made a motion, seconded by Bernie Grimme, to approve the Requests for Proposals as presented. Motion passed with Eric Kurtz and Cole Uecker abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public had any comments.

Arlene explained that she had been interviewed by the group completing the Legislative Study of the Family Support 360 and Shared Living programs. If any Council members are interested in being interviewed, or if the Council would like to do a Zoom session as a group, let Arlene know.

Samantha Hynes, Department of Health, shared that they will be working on a five-year strategic plan for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant and would like to get the Council's input.

Arlene shared that Disability Rights South Dakota will be gathering public comment on their Priorities and Objectives for the next year. Cole Uecker added that public comment will begin August 15 for 30 days. Cole or Arlene will share with the Council.

Brenda Smith shared information on the Technical Assistance Institute sessions that she participated in during May. The one on generational differences was very good and the one on how to meaningfully engage self-advocates in meetings. Arlene will share where to find the recordings so other Council members can watch if interested.

It was suggested that when an applicant applies for funding, they should include a plain language one-page bulleted summary of the intent, outcomes, activities and funding requested.

If an applicant is requesting continuation funding, they should include in their presentation the accomplishments and activities of the previous year.

Perhaps the Council should consider the idea of connecting current members with new members as mentors.

Next Meeting

Possible dates for September/October were discussed. Arlene will send a poll. Questions on the poll will include whether they would be interested in attending an in-person meeting and where.

Adjourn

Jessie Kuechenmeister made a motion, seconded by Bernie Grimme, to adjourn the meeting at 4:30p.m. Motion passed.